

MARK NEITZEL
3790 E Surrey Court
Rocky River, OH 44116

January 10, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft, U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I feel very strongly that the government has unduly and unfairly prosecuted Microsoft for supposed antitrust violations. This ordeal has gone on long enough and I am writing to give my support and endorsement to the settlement that was proposed between Microsoft and the Justice Department.

The states that do not support the federal settlement should not be allowed to undermine it, nor should Microsoft's business adversaries. The settlement is fair and reasonable, even making Microsoft give up trade secrets concerning its interfaces and protocols to the competition, and forcing Microsoft to be straitjacketed into a stringent licensing agreement. If the competitors have problems, they can file more lawsuits, which I understand they intend to do. Therefore, the states that settled should be allowed to move forward with it. It is their right to do so and should not be hindered by politics.

It goes without saying that settlement is preferable to litigation and that this lawsuit has had a very negative impact on the country's economy as well as the technology sector. This is a fact. It is also very ironic because the government's presumed objective of breaking up Microsoft in order to help the "little guy" who couldn't compete successfully against Microsoft has had the opposite effect, and everyone is now suffering.

I support the settlement that was reached. It is good for the economy, the IT industry, and consumers.

Sincerely,



Mark Neitzel